

Message Text

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ORIGIN STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 OIC-02 /126 R

DRAFTED BY STR/SLLANDE/TK
APPROVED BY STR/SLLANDE
TREASURY/JLYLE
COMMERCE/OITP/GCP/RRUZICKA
AGRICULTURE/FGEERKEN
COMMERCE/OCA/DND/KSTAUFFER
STATE/DBLAKEMORE
STATE/DMORAN
LABOR/HFIEKOWSKY (INFO)
-----126898 080833Z /15
R 080012Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USMISSION GENEVA

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USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: KS, MTN

SUBJECT: KOREA AND THE MTN

1. DESPITE PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE KOREANS, WE ARE
SURPRISED THAT KOREA, ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED LDCS, HAS NOT
TABLED ITS PROMISED MTN OFFER OR PARTICIPATED MORE ACTIVELY
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IN THE MTN NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING IN CODE DEVELOPMENT.

2. WASHINGTON IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING WHAT ACTION TO TAKE
IN REGARD TO MAINTAINING U.S. TARIFF OFFER IN LIGHT OF THE
FAILURE OF MANY DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO OFFER
SUFFICIENT LIBERALIZATION. GIVEN THE SENSITIVITY OF MANY
ITEMS WHERE KOREA IS A SUBSTANTIAL OR PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER,

WITHDRAWAL OF MANY CONCESSIONS IN OUR OFFER TO KOREA WOULD BE RECEIVED POSITIVELY ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT. IN THE ABSENCE OF A CONTRIBUTION BY KOREA, PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO KOREA THEREFORE MIGHT BE WITHDRAWN. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF SIGNIFICANT NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS, WE WILL STRIVE TO MAINTAIN OUR CURRENT OFFER AND EVEN CONSIDER LIMITED IMPROVEMENTS.

3. ALTHOUGH WE ARE PLEASED TO KNOW OF KOREAN INDICATION THAT IT MIGHT JOIN THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT CODE, WE HOPE THAT KOREA WILL SEND APPROPRIATE EXPERTS TO GENEVA IN THE

FALL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS AND OTHER CODES, PARTICULARLY THE SUBSIDY/COUNTERVAILING DUTY CODE. EVEN IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, OTHER GOVERNMENTS ARE AHEAD OF KOREA, HAVING MADE SPECIFIC OFFERS TO INCLUDE ENTITIES UNDER THE COVERAGE OF THE CODE.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE MORE IMMEDIATE ROKG INTEREST IN TRADE LIBERALIZATION THAN OTHER LDCS OF LESS DEVELOPED STATUS THAN KOREA, SUCH AS INDIA AND THAILAND, THE LATTER ARE MORE HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE MTN. DURING THE SPRING VISIT OF THE FOOTWEAR GROUP, ROKG OFFICIALS PARTICULARLY ASSISTANT MINISTER KIM SUN KIL, INDICATED THAT KOREA WOULD WANT TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE MTN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT KOREA IS ACTUALLY LIBERALIZING IN MANY AREAS OF INTEREST TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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U.S., PARTICULARLY FOR PRODUCTS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY THE U.S. IN THE MTN. NEVERTHELESS, THE KOREAN MTN DEL HAS NOT BEEN IN A POSITION, AT LEAST UNTIL NOW, TO OFFER THESE FOR CREDIT IN THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S FOLLOWING UP WITH APPROPRIATE KOREAN OFFICIALS TO STRESS KOREAN OWN SELF INTEREST IN GREATER PARTICIPATION IN THE MTN. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, TARIFFS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE199561
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SLLANDE/TK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780323-1242
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780887/aaaacuue.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 881a0467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1803380
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREA AND THE MTN
TAGS: ETRD, KS, US, MTN
To: SEOUL GENEVA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/881a0467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014